



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference BS03 ALC MDT		FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416																								
International application No. PCT/FR2004/000926	International filing date (day/month/year) 15.04.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 17.04.2003																									
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC																											
Applicant ALCEA																											
<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p> <p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of 7 sheets, as follows:</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table border="0"><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. I</td><td>Basis of the report</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. II</td><td>Priority</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. III</td><td>Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. IV</td><td>Lack of unity of invention</td></tr><tr><td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. V</td><td>Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VI</td><td>Certain documents cited</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VII</td><td>Certain defects in the international application</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/></td><td>Box No. VIII</td><td>Certain observations on the international application</td></tr></table>				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand		Date of completion of this report																									
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP		Authorized officer																									
Facsimile No.		Telephone No.																									

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

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Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:

- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished

☒ the description:

pages 1-15 as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the claims:

nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished

nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

nos.* 1-28 received by this Authority on 18.02.2005 with letter of 15.02.2005

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☒ the drawings:

sheets 1/5-5/5 as originally filed/furnished

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) - see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages _____

☐ the claims, nos. _____

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-28	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-28	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-28	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
<p>The invention relates to a method and a device for detecting and identifying objects, secured containers and systems provided with said device and objects suitable for said method.</p>			
<p>Reference is made to the following document:</p>			
<p>D1: US 6 204 764 B1 (MALONEY WILLIAM C) 20 March 2001 (2001-03-20), which discloses such a device.</p>			
<p>D1 describes (the references between parentheses apply to said document):</p>			
<p>A method for detecting and identifying an object (61, figure 5) provided with identification means (62, "RFID tag", figure 5) and wireless transmission means (76, "antenna", figure 6); which object is brought near a receiver module (63, "RF sensor", figure 5) among a plurality of receiver modules (63, 63, 63, 63, figure 5), including: an electromagnetic coupling between the wireless transmission means (76, "antenna", figure 6) of said object and a stationary antenna associated with said receiver module, and an analogue switching device (64, "matrix selector", figure 5) between each stationary antenna associated with a receiver module and a reader module (66, "RF encoder/decoder", figure 5) for reading identification data</p>			

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

from said identification means so that the reader module is electrically coupled successively to each of the stationary antennas of each receiver module.

A system and method for securing a plurality of objects to be secured according to said prior art involves the constraint of using a specific reader module, which requires perfect electrical compatibility between the identification components and the reader module. Furthermore, a change in the (identification means/reader module) combination for a different brand and operating at the same frequency is tedious and costly.

The general problem addressed by the application is therefore that of providing a method for detecting and identifying a plurality of objects that enables the cost of producing a secured facility (according to the prior art) for containing such objects to be significantly reduced.

The subject matter of claim 1 differs from the above-mentioned method in that: an electromagnetic coupling is provided between a secondary common stationary antenna and the primary stationary antenna connected to the reader.

According to the invention, it then becomes possible to electrically uncouple, on the one hand, the receiver modules and, on the other hand, the reader module.

Consequently, said difference enables receiver modules of varying characteristics to be fully matched to a reader module, which can then be selected from among the least expensive on the market.

The combination of features of claim 1 is not found in the

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prior art and cannot be derived in an obvious manner therefrom.

The reasoning set forth above can also be applied to independent claims 8 (device) and 14 (facility).

PCT Article 6

Claims 20 and 26 are unclear and fail to comply with the requirements of PCT Article 6, in so far as the subject matter for which protection is sought has not been clearly defined. As specified, the functional definitions do not enable a person skilled in the art to determine which technical features are necessary for achieving the functions.

The features in the claims are not followed by reference signs placed between parentheses (PCT Rule 6.2(b)).